

# ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY COMMISSION

City of Columbia & County of Boone  
Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

## Minutes of Tuesday, November 24, 2009

**Present:** Tom O'Connor, Alyce Turner, Michael Merkle, Jean Sax, Dan Goldstein, Lawrence Lile, Bob Walters, Dick Parker

**Absent:** Barbara Buffaloe, David Brodsky

**Guests:** Steve Hunt (City Public Works)

**City Staff:** Stephanie Brown (Water & Light Liaison)

## AGENDA

The agenda was approved with minor changes.

## MINUTES

The October, 2009 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

## CITY OF COLUMBIA WATER ISSUES

Commissioners discussed prior months' efforts to inform the City Council of concerns regarding the safety of the City's drinking water source and the consideration to build a new City well in locations the EEC is concerned about. Based on prior actions, the Council reviewed this discussion at its November 2, 2009 meeting, where three EEC commissioners spoke.

The secretary agreed to forward minutes of the Council discussion to EEC members when they were published. Tom O'Connor also agreed to prepare a memo or recap of actions the EEC could utilize in monitoring the well site selection in the future.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY BUILDING CODES

Commissioner Lawrence Lile has participated in several meetings of stake holders reviewing pending changes to Columbia's building codes, particularly those related to energy efficiency. Mr. Lile presented information concerning modifications to the Building Code. In a document he distributed to the Commission, he proposed that the EEC should formally request the City's Building Codes should be modified.

➔ After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to send a letter to the Building Codes Commission, with a copy to the City Council and County Commission, encouraging adoption of Mr. Lile's (following) proposal:

*Paragraph N1101.2.*

*Add to paragraph: Compliance with Tables N1101.5(1), N1101.5(2), N1101.5(3), N1102.1, N1102.1.2, and N1102.2.5 shall be considered to be met by compliance with the following requirements. Compliance with this section shall not be construed to be in compliance with Chapter 11 in its entirety and all other sections of Chapter 11 shall still apply.*

The motion was approved 7-1, with Bob Walters dissenting, stating the EEC's action was premature and based on incomplete information.

Commissioners further discussed energy code criteria regarding air infiltration and means to reduce it. Paragraph N102.4.2, Air Sealing & Insulation, offers builders and inspectors two options to test adequacy of measures to seal a structure's building envelope from outside air penetration. One option allows visual inspection of such measures, the other permits a blower door test.

→ Dick Parker made a motion that was seconded to require the blower door test as the determining factor when measuring air infiltration. Ensuing discussion touched on such issues of the expense of blower door testing; the availability of test equipment; and the timing or scheduling of such tests. The motion was approved 5 yes, 2 no, and 1 abstention. Those abstaining (O'Connor) or voting 'no' (Walters and Merkle) did so because more information was deemed necessary in order to conclude one option was more appropriate than the other.

## **SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR**

Bob Walters briefed the Commission on his service to the Sustainability Manager Review Committee (SMRC). The SMRC met for the first time the day before, November 23, 2009 at 7 AM. He reported the Committee would not select the eventual manager, nor would it rank applicants. It would meet each candidate in an informal group interview setting. SMRC members would be asked to rate (not rank) candidates based on criteria to be determined.

The City is in the midst of advertising for the position now and would cease accepting applications December 10, 2009. The SMRC will have its second meeting December 18, 2009 to decide which applicants to invite for interviews. Interviews are expected the first or second week of January with feedback provided to the City Manager shortly thereafter.

## **OTHER TOPICS**

### Recycling

The Commission briefly discussed previous comments about the placement of recycling bins in City parks at trail heads. Interpreting prior comments to mean a desire for dumpsters, Parks and Recreation responded negatively. Alyce Turner agreed to follow up with Parks and Recreation Director, Mike Hood, to clarify the intent to place conventional blue recycling barrels at desired locations, not dumpsters.

### LEED Standards for Neighborhood Development

Jean Sax and Lawrence Lile agreed to research the topic and report back to the EEC at a future meeting.

### Increasing the Renewable Component of Columbia's Electricity Portfolio

Dick Parker distributed a flyer, "Columbia Can Have 80% Carbon-Free Electricity in 2020!". He previously talked about this at a League of Women Voters meeting on November 17, 2009. His presentation focused on benefits of converting the City's generators to biomass from coal and greater utilization of wind power. A copy of his flyer is attached to these minutes.

Commissioner encouraged Mr. Parker to present his proposals to the City Council in the near future and to publicize his ideas through a Columbia Daily Tribune op-ed piece.

## **Natural Resources Inventory**

Dan Goldstein talked about the value of making the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) GIS mapping available to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and other stake holders as soon as possible. He noted access to this information would, in the short term, facilitate the pending East Columbia Area Plan. In the long term, the mapping data would benefit professionals and individuals from many fields in considering and/or planning potential development and its impact to the area's natural resources.

➔ A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to forward a letter to the City Council requesting it move quickly to provide interactive access to the Natural Resource Inventory GIS data and any related maps to the Planning and Zoning Commission and other stakeholders within two weeks.

## **Announcements, Comments, Etcetera**

- An informal poll was taken regarding the expected attendance at the EEC's December 22, 2009 meeting. A show of hands indicated a quorum would be possible.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.